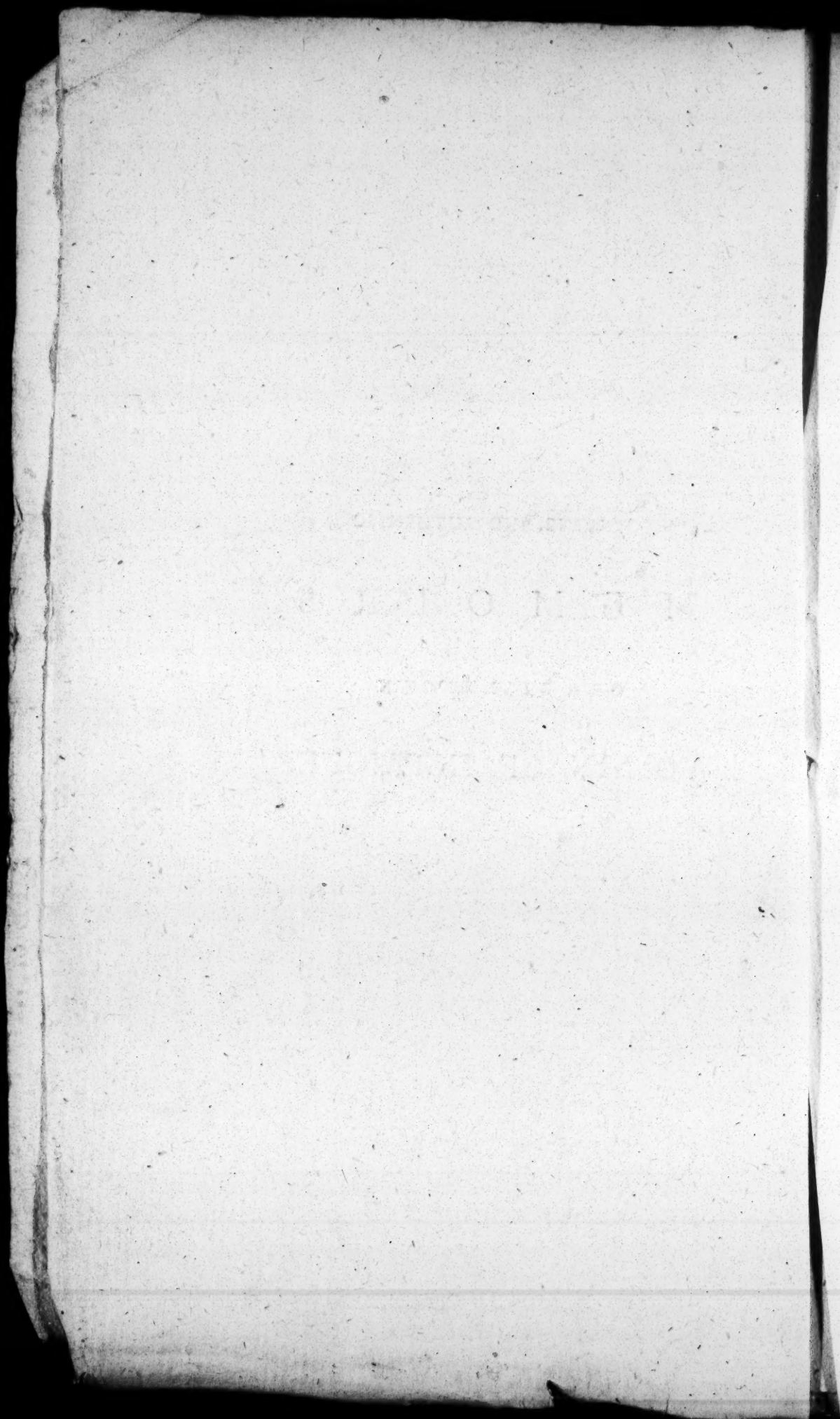
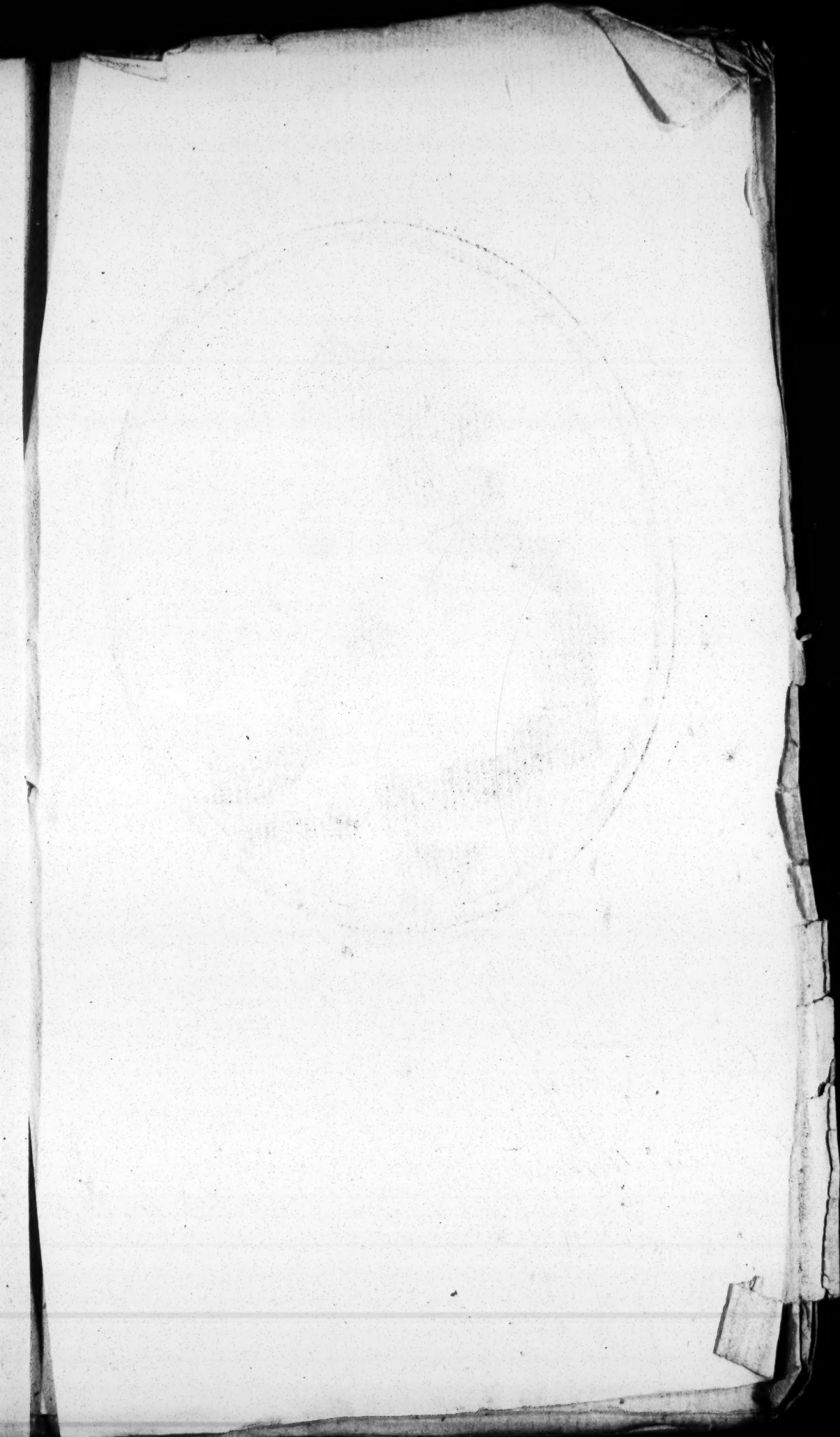


GENUINE AND AUTHENTIC
M E M O I R S
OF A WELL KNOWN
WOMAN OF INTRIGUE.

Vet. A. 5 e. 4604







Record. Sculp.

*Oh, ever beautiful, ever friendly, tell,
Is it, in Heav'n a crime, to love too well.*

Pope.

GENUINE AND AUTHENTIC

M E M O I R S

OF A WELL KNOWN

WOMAN OF INTRIGUE.

CONTAINING

A GREAT VARIETY OF CURIOUS AND
INTERESTING ANECDOTES, WHICH
HAVE NEVER YET APPEARED IN
PRINT, OF SEVERAL OF THE
FIRST CHARACTERS IN THE
FASHIONABLE WORLD.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

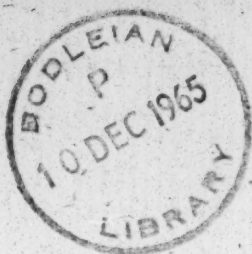
Omnia vincit amor, et nos cedamus amori.
VIRG.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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MDCCCLXXXVII.



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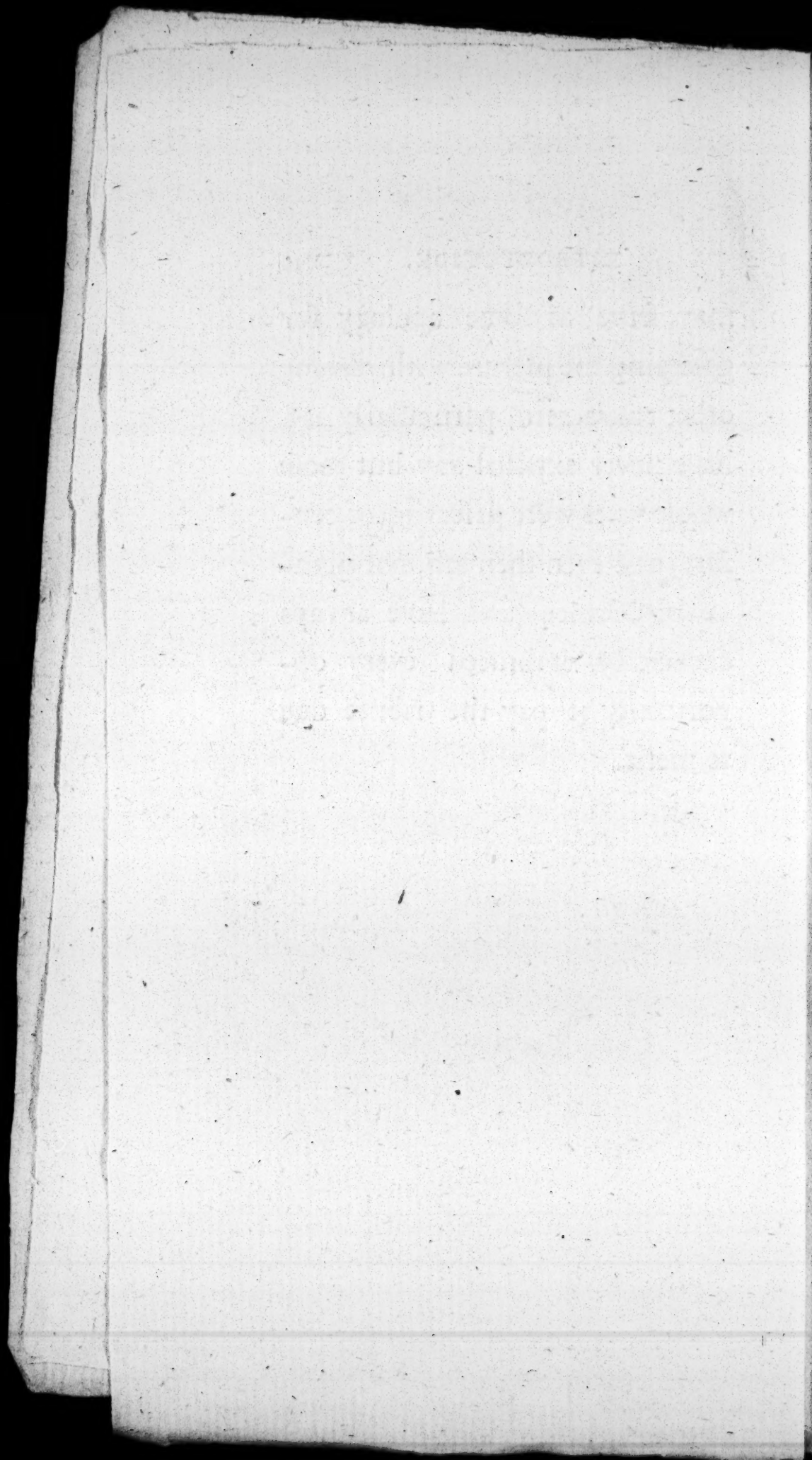
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INTRODUCTION.

THE numerous anecdotes and adventures of my life have been so variously related, and I have been described as such a monster of moral deformity by those who, no doubt, have censured me more from envy than principle, that I can venture to assert, no person, who knows me thoroughly, could possibly conceive the picture was intended for myself. My foibles and defects have been studiously heightened and exaggerated, while
my

my virtues and good qualities have, with equal care, been either shaded or omitted. Shocked at a draught so imperfect and unhandsome, and so greatly to my disadvantage, I was induced, in justice to myself, to attempt a likeness that shall neither flatter nor disparage me, and to represent in their natural colours, my imperfections as well as my charms; for some I must certainly have had, to account for that crowd of admirers who once contended for a preference in my affections. At the same time, I should hope that the inducement which has influenced me to exhibit myself to the public, may

may serve as some apology for grouping the picture with various other characters; particularly as I have never exposed any but those whose vices were deserving of censure, and even then too, not without reluctance, and have always cheerfully embraced every opportunity to pay the tribute due to merit.



MEMOIRS, &c.

THE more I reflect on my undertaking, the more I am astonished at it. I give my history to the public! A rare present indeed! The various occurrences of my life may perhaps neither prove instructive nor entertaining---how then can they interest the public? In considering myself in all points of view, I can discover nothing to make me vain enough to flatter myself with hopes of meriting

VOL. I.

A

their

their attention. I must be mad not to be aware of the ridicule I may draw on myself by painting my adventures in their natural colours: it is true that the greatest part of them are already known, and that I am no stranger to the public; nor do I announce myself under that title. But almost every body is as unacquainted with the principles that have given motion to the secret springs of my fortune as with my progressive career through life. Perhaps I ought also to drop the subject. For (if the best quality of a writer be the love of truth) I frankly own that I
do

do not think I have room to congratulate myself in that respect. The dazzling splendour of my present situation is not the entire result of what the world calls, real and acknowledged merit. Born in the center of voluptuousness, from my infancy familiarized with the most sportive feats of love, I owe every thing to my relish for pleasure. Inconstancy, caprice, levity, weakness and sensuality are the sources of my elevation. Having excited the envy of my rivals, and the criticism of others, is perhaps a sufficient reason to induce me to be silent. Nevertheless all the reflections

A 2

that

that occur to me, combined with all those my readers may be pleased to add to them, are not forcible enough to stop me. I must absolutely scribble; the fondness of prattle is not the smallest virtue of my sex. To such laudible motives am I indebted for my boldness, otherwise I should be unable to face without trembling, the dangers and inconveniences attached to the profession of an author.

I am then going to write---How pretty an amusement is that of scribbling! how flattering it is to a person of my age, to see herself

self in print, and perhaps read with some degree of curiosity! I cannot conceal my joy. A rival of Lady C---n in the career of honour, I fancy myself beforehand sharing the glory inseparable from the title of Heroine of a Novel.

As all my present virtues, and the fame I now enjoy, proceed from the care my mother took of my education, I should be guilty of the blackest ingratitude, if I suffered her to remain unknown, and thereby deprived her of encomiums only due to her talents and experience.

It rests with me alone to give myself an illustrious origin. Mrs. M-----n reckons some bishops among her ancestors: Why may not I be entitled to the same privilege? Do not the church, the bar, and the army afford me a sufficient number of heroes to give a lustre to the obscurity of my family? But it is not my wish to deceive. Though ambitious and vain, my vanity has in view a more certain object than the advantages of a chimerical birth. A pretty woman seeks neither ancestry nor posterity: her pedigree is herself; her charms give her rank: some intrigues

trigues well conducted, a few infidelities disguised with artifice, violent and tumultuous passions, a perpetual succession of pleasures, a brilliant fortune, twenty lovers who ruin themselves and each other to please her ; such are her titles, and I will have no others.

My mother is the daughter of a beneficed clergyman in the West Riding of the county of York. Nature had adorned her with all the charms requisite to acquire the favours of fortune : she united the graces of a striking figure with a disposition which qualified her for acting a very interesting

teresting part in the world, if her destiny, like mine, had led her to London in the season that she might have profited by these extraordinary advantages : her attractions, seconded by the most happy inclinations, only wanted a theatre worthy of displaying them. But all the merit imaginable could be of no avail, when confined to the corner of a small town in Yorkshire. My mother felt all the malicious influence of her evil stars, which had restricted her perfections to such narrow limits. She fell a victim to the obscurity in which she lived, and was obliged to dishonour her
beauty

beauty by a disgustful alliance with a neighbouring country squire of seventy. To this happy mortal were consigned the voluptuous gleanings of several marriages which she had temporarily contracted with all the lovers that the solitude of Castle Ford afforded her, in whose embraces she tasted the sweets of ripening love.

Yorkshiremen, though naturally more phlegmatic than people of other counties, are perhaps more indulgent in certain respects, and my virtuous mother so little regarded the reflections
her

her husband might make upon the state of her charms, that she made no difficulty of submitting them to his examination, without even giving herself the trouble to conceal their defects by the slightest preparation. From too confident a belief that she still possessed what she had long lost, she made some scruple of yielding to her stupid husband the enjoyment of her healthful person.

All her lovers had taken leave of her for some days, in order to give old Titus full leisure to exhaust the warmth of his first flame.

flame with his new Aurora, which, most probably, was meant to secure their accustomed pleasures from any future interruption.

Amongst these admirers, was an attorney, who more obstinate than his rivals, perhaps from a refinement of delicacy, was absolutely determined to enjoy the honours of precedence on the day of the nuptials. In vain my mother represented to him the danger and scandal of such an enterprize, he still persisted. These lawyers are tenacious---she was obliged to consent. Com-
plaisant

plaisant to an excess, she flattered his vanity, and promised that the day of her making the hymeneal vow, he should triumph over the God himself, even in her husband's own house. The lawyer, satisfied with this declaration, impatiently sighed for the happy moment which was to place him at the summit of his wishes, by crowning his amorous exploits.

My chaste mother, the tender victim of love and duty, was led to the altar, where she swore an eternal fidelity to her husband, an oath she was resolved to keep no longer

longer than was consistent with her interest and pleasures. The ceremony being finished, she was conducted to her husband's house, attended by a pretty numerous train. The amorous lawyer, in quality of friend to the family, was invited to the entertainment; he constantly kept his eye upon her, fully determined to let slip no opportunity of claiming a performance of her promise. The bride, who readily guessed his design, herself endeavoured to insure him success. Fortunately her husband was called out on business; she chose this interval to steal away, and the confusion

that then prevailed, favoured her retreat. The attorney followed her from one room to another, 'till they found themselves in the bakehouse, which was exceedingly dark.

These happy lovers, no longer subject to the prying eye of curiosity, gave a loose to all the transports that love is capable of inspiring. The place destined to be the scene of their pleasures was but poorly furnished. No table, not even a chair: all the furniture consisted of a great kneading trough, where the flour was usually slackened to make bread for the family. This sorry lodging
might

might have disgusted any two persons whose hearts were less inflamed than theirs. But what cannot love do? It veils deformity and beautifies even ugliness itself. This trough, a despicable object of repose on all other occasions, appeared to them far preferable to the most elegant bed, and calculated for the most heavenly pleasures.

As lovers cannot converse long at their ease in a standing posture, and my mother being afraid of soiling her wedding clothes, it was resolved that the lawyer should seat himself on one corner of the

B 2 trough

trough, taking the necessary precaution of holding up the skirts of his coat, so that the flour could only disfigure the inside of it. After having so wisely concerted their measures, they commenced a very animated conversation, their hearts beat in unison, they were eager to give each other reciprocal proofs of their passion, their senses were fascinated by the most tender caresses, they tasted in each others arms that delicious intercourse, which constitutes the charm of love; a thousand reiterated kisses, some half-interrupted sighs, forerunners of the most enchanting pleasures, bewildered their

their fleeting souls, and plunged them in that excess of bliss, which bespeaks in so expressive a manner, the transports of voluptuousness.

The too lascivious lawyer, who was only seated on the edge of the trough, which was too narrow to make a firm seat, by his violent agitation, insensibly lost his equilibrium. The warmth of the conversation stupified him. The bride seated across his knees, and as absent as himself, was lifted up from the ground by the change of situation: the motions becoming more and more violent, hastened the catastrophe; the amorous

couple being just upon the slip, a slight inclination backwards completed their overthrow, and sent the unfortunate lawyer to the bottom of the trough, where, to increase the disaster, he found himself suddenly swallowed up like a cricket, in a heap of dough.

His *chere amie*, who, fortunately for her, previous to her surrender, had prop'd herself by leaning one hand against the wall, no sooner perceived that he had lost the center of gravity, than she abandoned the uncertain throne of pleasure, and cunningly disengaging herself from the incrafted practitioner,

ner, who might have pull'd her after him in his fall, nimbly hop'd off, and rejoined the assembly.

The disastrous attorney, notwithstanding his exertions to extricate himself from his unpleasant situation, would probably have remained there some time, had not his cries brought the squire's servants to his assistance. After looking for him every where, they at last found him in the kneading trough, from whence he was taken out, covered with dough from head to foot. Nothing could restrain the bursts of laughter which his ridiculous figure occasioned.

My

My mother, who was the only one acquainted with the mystery of the adventure, was the first to rally him; which she did with all the assurance of a woman of the world.

I have selected this ingenious trait from many others of my mother's intrigues, merely to give some idea of her inclinations, and to shew to what a degree of eminence she has been able to carry that kind of virtue she professes, by use and experience, seconded by so happy a genius. I will pass over an infinity of her other adventures, unless they have some relation to

the

the events of my life. It is my own history that I am writing, and not her's. However, before I have done speaking of her, justice requires that I should give a slight sketch of the most striking features of her character.

I have nothing to say of her countenance, it having no longer any thing engaging left. Let us come to her essential qualifications. My mother has a perfect idea of her business as much as a woman of the world can have. She ought to be well acquainted with the manners of the age, having traded all her life with gentlemen
of

of the army, the bar, and the church; she has neglected nothing for her improvement, and has even condescended to associate with the lowest classes of people, in order to add some new discoveries to her knowledge. Workmen, servants, all ranks have undergone her examination. Those vile wretches, who compose the inferior orders of society, are not on that account the less worthy of notice; they are the better calculated to instruct us, as their unpolished vices are not disguised by a deceitful exterior, which often fascinates the sight, and is the means of concealing the same principles in

in the polite world. By proceeding in this manner, one cannot fail of reaping some benefit from study. Neither has she any reason to regret the time she has spent in imbibing such wholesome doctrine

From this prodigious fund of abilities, acquired by experience, she has adapted a mind to deep intrigue: many people say that she is crafty; but they are deceived, she is only clever. As for her heart, I do not know a better. Addicted to few passions, from having lost the sense of them; easy of persuasion, carrying her goodness

ness beyond the limits of indulgence, her soothing tenderness is not a constitutional virtue; the strength of reflection has rendered it an habitual one, inasmuch that it may be said, that her extreme complaisance is not owing to her sensibility, but to her reason: mild, insinuating, compliant, ever ready to apologize for all kinds of weaknesses; in a word, worthy of being held out as a model to those women who are kind enough to consecrate their labours to the satisfaction of the public. Nevertheless, as there is nothing absolutely perfect in this world, there are some small shades in the picture;

picture; she is accused of being avaricious, and even vindictive, when her interest is at stake; too much attached to the amusements of the table; and often drinking to an indecent excess. But by how many virtues does she not compensate for such trivial foibles?

She has been so far scandalized as to be charged with the faults of love; and has been reproached with having suffered herself to be led astray by the sensual God, as if that could not have happened without her being an accomplice in the crime. Does not the

absence of sentiment afford her a sufficient excuse? And can we divine what is invisible to us? I will say no more of her: for indeed I feel, I can with difficulty repress the rising impulses of pride which invade my breast, when I describe too minutely the perfections of a parent so truly deserving of my esteem and veneration.

My mother, such as I have just represented her, spent some years with her husband in tolerable quiet. The good old man, charmed with her pregnancy, adopted the whole progeny of his

his bedfellow. She made him father to five children, of which number I am. With all my mother's arrangements, she did not however pride herself upon an exact observance of conjugal fidelity. She well knew that every thing has its proper limits ; and that virtue, carried to an excess, may become an imperfection ; this induced her to civilize her's. It would therefore be extremely difficult to form any certain opinion relative to the birth of her children. She never had any, whose parentage she could confine to a precise æra. I have often pressed her to inform me

to whom I owe my entrance into life ; but she has never been able to give me any positive assurance on that head ; for, by her own confession, upon scrupulously calculating the number of days elapsed, from the instant of my formation to that of my birth, there arises a doubt in her mind, which runs upon seven different persons, amongst whom she cannot conscientiously decide ; however ; to do me honour, as well as herself, she traces my origin to Lord C---ll, one of the seven. He was a young officer, whom she considered merely as a bird of passage : I only know him by name.

name. My mother, who often made sudden conquests of this nature, was subject to lose them as quickly.

I shall slightly pass over the first years of my life; they contain nothing sufficiently striking to amuse the curiosity of my readers, and the infancy of most people is spent in the same manner: I had a very promising little face; my features in their imperfect state, discovered some symptoms of beauty. My mother, aware of the resources that such advantages might eventually afford, spared no pains in cul-

tivating my blooming charms; she relied very much upon them, and considered them as an introduction to the most brilliant adventures. Tired of the company of her debilitated husband, and disliking a small town where she could find no variety, she resolved to change both air and residence, and went to settle at York. I was not forgotten---she took me with her---and I was perhaps the most valuable of the effects she carried from the place of her nativity.

On our arrival at York, my mother gave herself out as a widow;

widow; this title confined her to a certain decency of behaviour, that was exceedingly troublesome: she was soon disgusted with a place so little suitable to her inclinations. These motives induced her to marry again, as, according to her mode of thinking, her first marriage was dissolved by her being no longer on the same spot. In truth, this second marriage was one of those alliances, destitute of all ceremony, where only the inclination of the parties is required, without any other formality. This secondary husband was a master of languages, who spoke very bad French and
broken

broken German, and yet taught both; in other respects, he was exactly such a man as my mother wanted: that is saying the most of him in a few words. After being divorced seven years, my mother was at length informed of the death of the squire, her first husband: this gave her an opportunity of uniting herself legally with her second bridegroom. I visibly increased in growth, and my mother was daily confirmed in the flattering idea she entertained of my charms. She took care to provide me with a dancing-master, and nothing was neglected to improve the graces of my person;

person; as for my heart and understanding, the formation of them was entirely left to Nature.

My mother, for some time fatiated with the pleasures of the world, began to wish for a little rest; but she did not chuse to retire altogether, without having procured the reversion in my favour. Having now reached my thirteenth year, it is time I should make my appearance; and I am going to enlist in her stead.

Although at a time of life that the passions do but slightly touch the heart, I began to have some feeling.

feeling. The sight of a well made man excited my curiosity in the most unaccountable manner. I was more affected by the impression of such an object, than by the impulses of common curiosity. My little soul was deeply struck by the singularity of this kind of soft and pleasing languor. I endeavoured to dissipate the confusion of my ideas; the mystery of them fretted me--- I wished to banish them from my mind, but my absence was momentary---I could not avoid returning to the subject---Seduced by an innocent charm, I yielded to its influence. From seeking
into

into hidden causes, my eyes were opened by degrees---I already discovered a little..... What an excellent preceptress is Nature!

My mother, knowing from her own experience the consequence of leaving to a young mind the liberty of unravelling such a mystery, was firmly resolved to prevent my profiting by the reflections that might occur to me. Fearing that the happy constitution I seemed to have inherited from her, might lead me astray, she never lost sight of me, and supplied the place of duenna, with an attention which would have

have been very commendable, had it proceeded from a different principle.

I had an infinity of lovers; whenever I went out, I perceived their eyes were constantly fixed on me. The eagerness of their looks gave me inward satisfaction; I felt a secret emotion: I could not well divine their meaning; but I indiscriminately imagined that there was a pleasure in granting what was required of me.

One of these admirers was an officer, who had often tried in
vain

vain to speak to me privately, but had always been baffled by my mother's vigilance. At length, wearied with the ill success of his measures, he determined to apply to her personally, in order to obtain me by her consent. Though my mother was quite delighted with the engaging and persuasive manner in which he expressed his wishes, she at first started many difficulties, only by way of inflaming his desires. The officer pressed her hard; she excused herself; still he persisted. After disputing the ground inch by inch, the marriage was at length agreed on; and my charms

having been valued, my settlement was fixed at one hundred guineas ; an exorbitant sum out of an officer's pocket. The money, which was the principal object of our matrimonial conventions, was deposited, and the day fixed for the celebration of the nuptials.

For want of time, my mother could only give me some preliminary instructions, that I might support with dignity the character of wife to a cornet of dragoons. What to me was the most advantageous part of the engagement I had contracted, was,

was, that my intended husband could only stop at York to consummate his marriage. Being ordered to rejoin his regiment, he could not prolong his stay upon any account. The early prospect of being a widow did not terrify me: although the officer was of a handsome figure, he had made but a slight impression on my heart. I heard his departure spoken of with unconcern. I had been so accustomed to obey my mother, that I had consented from no other motive. We both got into a carriage that had been sent to take us to the church of a neigh-

bouring village, and had already reached the city gates, when a most unexpected accident obliged us to turn back. An officer of high rank, related to my intended husband, and who interested himself very untimely in his welfare, had obtained orders for him to leave York immediately. This troublesome relation arrived there the very day chosen for our wedding. Farewel all schemes of pleasure! The proposed match was broken off. He was obliged to submit, and take leave of a place where a succession of amusements had made him too long forget his duty.

The

The hundred guineas that my mother had in hand, consoled her in some measure for the loss of her son-in-law. Various lovers courted the honour of my alliance ; my widowhood had not affected my beauty ; and I still really possessed every thing that was necessary to make the man of my choice experience, how flattering it is to vanity, to initiate a woman in the mysteries of Hymen. But it was high time, this delicious fruit was ready to drop from the tree.

Under pretence of learning German, G-----th had not many

D 3 days

days made acquaintance with my father-in-law ; by giving him suppers he insinuated himself into his good graces. Having secured his protection, he was intent on gaining my mother's interest. Some well-timed presents disposed her, if not to hear him favourably, at least to give him hopes, which engaged him to redouble his attention and assiduity.

I was not insensible to his efforts to please me. G-----th, was amiable ; with a prepossessing countenance, a soft, engaging disposition, and calculated for the enjoyments

enjoyments of society; tender, obliging, officious, obedient to the sex, and in continual pursuit of pleasure. What allurements to seduce a heart like mine, which, although unexperienced, felt a supernatural propensity for voluptuousness! He easily perceived the impression he had made on me; it only remained to find an opportunity favourable to the inclination I cherished for him.

It was harvest time. G-----th, whose whole study was to establish himself in my mother's good opinion, proposed a party of pleasure, which was accepted. He accordingly

accordingly conducted us to his country seat, where every thing was prepared for our reception. The secret *penchant* he had inspired me with, made me enjoy inexpressible delight in partaking of the diversions he procured for us. How sweet it is to owe our pleasures to those we love! My mother, whose interest was inseparable from mine, had very strongly recommended me to be upon my guard, and not to grant him any unbecoming liberties. For the first time in my life, I found her prohibition unreasonable. For what purpose, said I to myself, does she wish to constrain

constrain me so much as to ill-treat a man who adores me? Does not what I feel for him encourage me against all the dangers with which I am threatened? What have I to fear? But is not my mother jealous? Oh no, she has told me a thousand times that her heart had lost its sensibility. It is then from pure caprice that she forbids me things which ought to be charming, although I am unacquainted with them: I am transported with the imperfect idea I have formed of them; I will know this something that she wishes to keep me ignorant of. Thus from one reflection to another,

another, I prepared for love an easy triumph over my heart, to which the access was already made by the sole instinct of pleasure.

My imagination, filled with these interesting ideas, did not leave me a moment's repose. The satisfaction that G-----th felt at being near me, had increased his natural vivacity and good humour: this only rendered him more fit to inspire me with desires. These desires kept me in continual agitation: I could not close my eyes the whole night. I got up at day break, and went
down

down into the garden with an intention of giving a turn to my thoughts. G-----th, who had not slept more than myself, was at the window of his apartment, and no sooner saw me strike down a bower at the bottom of the garden, than he came directly after me. I was too deeply bent on the object of my meditations to perceive that any body was following me. "You are a very early riser, Ma'am," said he, on approaching me. His voice recalled me from my reverie. I first endeavoured to avoid him, but my surprise prevented me. I remained speechless; a variety
of

of contradictory ideas struggled in my mind. When I thought of running away, an unknown charm with-held me. I was moved. The disorder that the presence of G-----th excited in my heart, kept me silent. I feared, I wished, without being able to discover the principle of my wishes or fears. We looked some time at each other without speaking a word. He was too good a judge not to divine what passed in my soul. He at length broke silence, and taking one of my hands, which I could not prevent him from kissing, "will you be so good, my dear lady," said he,

he, "as to allow me to walk with you." Most willingly, Sir, replied I, trembling. "How kind you are!" continued he, repeating the kiss—"I cannot express how much I am obliged to you for this favour." Pray, Sir, said I, blushing, moderate the excess of your gratitude. At the same time I made a feeble effort to withdraw my hand. Our eyes met at this very instant. I imbibed from his an ardour that consumed me. My face felt as if on fire; the quick palpitations of my heart almost took away my breath; my trembling knees could scarce support me. I was

obliged to sit down on the grass, to endeavour to recover the use of my senses. G-----th immediately fell at my feet: this attitude redoubled my emotion; his pathetic looks pierced me through and through; my heart was more and more overwhelmed by the fascinating delirium; my eyes grew dim; I could no longer distinguish the objects that surrounded me: the disorder of my senses reached my soul, and caused a sudden revolution that deprived me of all sensibility; a sentiment partaking of pleasure and pain restored me to life—I opened my eyes, and found myself in the arms

arms of the victorious Deity. The situation I was in, the transports of G-----th convinced me of his triumph; but what I had just experienced did not permit me to be angry.

The first taste I had of sensuality threw me into raptures that I could not withstand. I found ineffable delight in losing myself in an abyss of pleasures. G---th shared my transports, and by his fond caresses, still prolonged the enchanting illusion; my beauties displayed to his view, and devoured by his burning kisses, seemed to throw him into extacy. Some-

E 2 times

times motionless, the faculties of the soul remained as if suspended; then carried away by a torrent of desires, his irritated love could no longer govern the ardour of his passions. I was all on fire, and my heart failed me every instant. The completion of our wishes, far from exhausting our sensibility, revived them with more violence. We had been two hours together; and I scarceley thought a few moments had elapsed.

We were in one of the most critical parts of our interview, when my mother came upon us unawares, interrupted our sports, put

put to flight our love, and petrefied me with her prefence. She vented her fury againft G-----th in the moft bitter reproaches; the moft inveterate expreffions were lavifhed on him. He flood this firft fire, and perceiving the heat of her paffion to be evaporated in abufe, undertook to appeafe her entirely by juftifying his temerity. Obligated to confeß his fault, fince the fituation he was ftill in, fpoke againft him, he endeavoured to colour it in the moft plaufible manner: he made my mother the moft dazzling promifes, gave her pledges for the performance of his word; and by means of

his money and polite behaviour, found the secret of pacifying her, and restoring peace. The evil being past remedy, nothing else could be done.

After spending some days at this house, we returned to York. G---th continued to visit me; his constant occupation seemed to be to please me, and to cultivate my relish for the mysteries of love: but through the unaccountable caprice of my character, this relish that he had given me, rendered him the victim of my inconstancy. I sometimes found him less tender than I could have wished.

wished. Every day I acquired some further insight. G----th appeared to me too much attached to trifles, in the very moments that my vivacity made me long for more serious business. It seemed me to very singular, that he should neglect the substance to amuse himself with the shadow, which could not compensate for its loss. I often attempted to bring him back to the reality, without being able to succeed. This put me out of humour. I sought the cause of so surprising a change. By dint of reflection, I conceived that the faculties of men had evidently certain bounds,
and

and that the sensibility they possessed, not being equal to their desires, their imagination was obliged to supply the place of it, 'till their vigour returned. These puerile amusements were no longer agreeable to me, after having enjoyed some others of a different nature. I wished that G-----th's passion could have carried him greater lengths, which would have been more suitable to my constitution. But what was to be done? There was no help for this misfortune, and I could not reform the order of things.

I com-

I communicated my grief to my mother ; she took a kind concern in my sufferings, and a friendship for me suggested to her a method of alleviating them. She advised me to add to G-----th some persons capable of filling up the intervals ; and pointed out to me that by such a conduct, though advantageous on many accounts, I could not fail to make considerable improvements in our affairs as well as in my pleasures. I relished lessons of policy that agreed so well with the disposition of my heart. We did not long wait for an opportunity of trying the experiment. A young member of
parlia-

parliament, who fighed for me, proposed terms of accommodation to us by a kind of secretary, whom he employed on these particular occasions. I accepted his conditions. He was introduced with some precautions, that G----th might not be frightened away in the early stage of the intrigue. I was so well pleased with this increase of patrimony that I grew more and more fond of this new acquisition. Though the senator thought me very prudent, I did not think proper to be so: he was a party concerned; that alone was sufficient for me not to abide by his decisions.

Many

Many members of parliament and officers quartered in the city and the neighboured honoured me with their visits. G----th fancied he perceived some indecorum in my conduct, and was willing to upbraid me with it. I treated him with contempt. The majesty of my reproaches alienated his affections; we quarrelled, and I was very glad to get rid of so troublesome a comptroller of my amusements.

We lived very agreeably; a continual succession of pleasures filled up every interval. My wishes, gratified as soon as formed,
even

even often anticipated, daily exhibited the prodigious inclination I had for enjoyment. But it is extremely difficult to preserve for a length of time a brilliant reputation, without being exposed to the shafts of envy : ours did not escape censure. The most innocent of our actions were converted into crimes. Fortune, who had smiled upon us in the beginning, insensibly changed her countenance. The number of my admirers visibly diminished : I was forced to content myself with more humble conquests. This completely brought my charms into disrepute. A cheap purchase does
not

not enrich the feller: we sadly experienced the truth of this trite observation; for on summing up our little profits, we had the mortification to find our affairs in a very deep decline.

We had not husbanded Fortune's favours, but had imprudently flattered ourselves that she would be constant to us: puffed up with prosperity, our blindness caused our ruin, and we now found ourselves less advanced than at our first *entrée* into life. The bad posture of our affairs not permitting us to remain longer with credit in a country, where we had

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made some figure, we necessarily thought of retiring from it.

My mother disliking a town where merit had been so poorly rewarded, readily determined on leaving it. Her distress induced her to think of going to London: what she had heard of it awakened her hopes. It was agreed that in that capital we should endeavour to captivate the favour of Fortune. We accordingly took places in the stage-coach, and set off. My mother was no sooner seated in the carriage, than she poured forth all the imprecations against York and its unjust inhabitants,

bitants, that a reasonable resentment could dictate.

We were now on the road to London with the savings of a very slender fortune. When I quitted York, I had not been so universally abandoned as not to leave some people concerned for my welfare. The son of a counsellor of that town had been a long time struck with my charms; but the high value that had been set upon them, had hitherto been an obstacle to the declaration of his passion, and had kept him within the bounds of respect. Being informed of my departure, his love for me led him

to make an attempt on his father's strong box, the contents of which he carried off. He immediately followed us, and overtook the coach before dinner-time. My mother, who knew him, received him with that coolness which was natural to her. It was in vain that he made to her as well as to my father-in-law the most polite advances he could think of. Nothing had any effect. We alighted for dinner, during which he had no reason to congratulate himself on the step he had just taken. We rose from table, and as every body thought of participating the expence, my travel-

travelling lover, rich with paternal spoils, displayed such a heavy purse of gold, that he attracted my mother's notice. She was fattered at the sight of it, and answered the conversation he afterwards addressed to us in a milder tone. He divined the motive, that disposed things so much in his favour. This happy change made him hope that the event would be equally favourable to him. When we stopped to sleep, he took my mother aside, and made such brilliant overtures to her, considering the present situation of our affairs, that she was quite dazzled by them. The treaty was speedily concluded,

to the satisfaction of all parties. A kind of verbal contract was drawn up without the aid of an attorney, and I was given in marriage without any other considerations: but through my mother's inadvertency, for which as a woman of experience she cannot be too much blamed, she neglected to have my dowry deposited. Is such imprudence to be forgiven?

Accustomed to hasty agreements, I consented without reluctance, to whatever was required of me. I was prompted by interest, a powerful incentive, and my mother had always told me, that
nothing

nothing else ought to weigh so much with a girl, whose only resource against the frowns of fortune were her charms. I was moreover urged by the allurements of pleasure, for which I had an insatiable appetite, that I have ever indulged from the first trial that I made of it. My father-in-law and my mother took upon themselves the care of putting us into the nuptial bed; and as my marriage was a clandestine alliance, which they wished to conceal from the knowledge of our fellow-travellers, they slept in the same room that we did, in order to secure us from all intrusion.

This

This odious night, which, of all others I ever spent, ought to have been the best rewarded, a night that I was the dupe of my confidence and goodness of heart, perhaps the only one that I have any thing to reproach myself with; this night, I say, the monument of my shame, and of the ingratitude of a traitor, was witness to the most tender mysteries. Oh Love! why could you suffer a heart entirely devoted to you, be so cruelly deceived? Did my sincerity in surrendering myself to the villain, who played upon my credulity, deserve to be treated with

with so much indignity? How many careffes did I not lavish on the ungrateful wretch to whom I yielded all my charms? Languishing raptures, eager embraces, violent transports, my whole soul entirely gave way to the soft effusions of the purest and most delicious joy. The proofs I gave him of my passion, varied in a thousand different ways, seemed to increase in proportion to the desires with which love inspired him. I exposed to the perfidious fellow all the treasures of sensuality, and by some supernatural exertions, I even exhausted the last resources of of tendernefs. At length, overcome

come by the multiplicity and excess of our pleasures, we both fell fast asleep in the arms of love.

But what were my feelings when I awoke! It was scarce day-break when we were roused from our slumbers. My lover, whose heart I thought myself in possession of, especially after all that I had done to please him, rose in a great hurry; no sooner was he dressed, than, forgetting my kindness and the obligations he owed me, he assumed a stile of acknowledgment that petrified us with surprise. "I shall return to York," said he--"Ladies, I wish you a good journey ;

journey; you are going to a city where the charms of Miss Louisa must insure your future happiness. With respect to our agreement, be so good as to let me off for the present; by fulfilling it, I should deprive myself of the needful, to give you a superfluity; the loss of which, your youth and beauty will easily repair. So good morning to you." Saying this, he made a low bow, and went out, leaving us as much amazed at his coolness as his impudence. What could we do? Condemned to vent our grief in useless lamentations, we got again into the coach, and were forced to brook an affront, which
if

if discovered, would have made us the laughing-stock of every body.

It may be well supposed that I was in very bad humour during the remainder of the journey. A clergyman, who was an inside passenger, and going to London to get rid of the gout, made some proposals to me. I did not listen to him. The recent lesson I had received had given me an aversion to all stage-coach adventures. I have ever since taken care to have in view this instance of the perfidy of men, in order to be upon my guard against their tricks.

We

We at last reached London, whither we had directed our steps in consequence of the conquests to which we aspired. We took ready furnished lodgings in Parliament-street; contenting ourselves with this humble habitation 'till Love could provide us a more decent one.

My mother was pretty well acquainted with the geography of London; from different accounts she had gathered a perfect knowledge of the manners of its inhabitants: she knew in what light strangers were considered; for which reason she made me keep

on my country garb. This was in some measure shewing me off in the most seducing manner. Some days elapsed without any thing remarkable happening to me. I perceived that people looked at me with eagerness, as if struck with some new object. Many flattering compliments were often paid me on the graces of my person; and if I chose to believe them, I might without vanity fancy myself pretty well made; add to that a tolerable face, adorned with fine brown hair, of a prodigious length, that fell down in flowing ringlets below my riding habit, which set off the fineness and elegance of a well
pro-

proportioned waist. All this was sufficiently striking to raise the curiosity of many who wished to be more intimate with me.

In our neighbourhood lived one of the Secretaries to the Treasury. Whenever I passed under his window, he ogled me with the greatest attention. Being wholly unemployed, and in want of some recreation, I had taken notice of him; some kind looks I favoured him with, made him watch for me with diligence. These children of Fortune are not fond of fighting in vain; accustomed to rapid pursuits, their sanguine and pe-

tulant desires know no bounds; to love me and to let me know it, was not for him the work of two days. An officious lady charged with the honourable commission of making me sensible of his sufferings, served as a mediatrix: she paid us a visit under pretence of being a neighbour: after the preliminaries of politeness usual on those occasions, she came to the point. She began by informing my mother that Mr. R----n being taken up with more important concerns, and not able on that account to submit to the trifling forms of making love, had begged her to speak to us for him, and to tell us that I had the good
fortune

fortune to please his fancy; that he was ready to give us the most indisputable proofs of his esteem: she finished her compliments by advising us not to lose so favourable an opportunity; adding, that we had to do with a generous man, who loved to enjoy himself at his ease; and that neither our interest nor conscience could permit us to let a man languish, who was so serviceable to the state; and that there was no time to be lost.

Our reply was very short—the argument was weighty. Mr. R----n, conducted by his worthy Ambassadress, came himself to confirm what she had already told us

by his orders. He was received with all imaginable honours, and as rich favourites generally are. Before he entered into conversation with me, he took my mother into an adjoining room. I partly overheard what passed between them. "Mrs. K---y," said he, "has assured me that your daughter is prudent. I am very glad of it, as I am not fond of your giddy girls. My greatest pleasure will be to keep her so; however don't go to deceive me, for I am not a novice in these matters." I laughed to myself at this comical reflection. He then immediately came to me, and every body respectfully withdrew.

When

When we were left alone, I convinced him by my coyness, that he had not been imposed upon; that I was in reality a most valuable acquisition; and that he was greatly indebted to Mrs. K-----y for her exquisite choice in catering.

The next morning a mantua-maker brought me a very handsome gown, with a letter from Mr. R-----n. He intreated me to accept this trifling present as a token of his love, and to pay attention to the colour (the dress was blue) which was an emblem of the fidelity he expected from me.

me. Although I had no relish for constancy, I nevertheless was going to answer him in an heroic style, when he entered himself. He came to congratulate himself on the good effect of his gallantry, and I had again the happiness to merit his praises.

This good understanding lasted some days, when the capricious Mr. R-----n forgot his oaths, and all at once discontinued his visits. Surprised at such a conduct, I was at a loss what to ascribe it to. Though he had made no very deep impression on my heart, I was notwithstanding
very

very uneasy about it, as well as my mother. We liked his liberality. A week passed without our hearing from him; we then thought proper to wait on Mrs. K----y, with whom we held a long conference.

The result was, that I was to expect nothing more from Mr. R-----n. But Mrs. K----y being a woman of expedient, undertook to console me, and succeeded. She pointed out to me my youth and beauty as the surest means of compensating for the loss of one lover by the acquisition of a thousand others. What shall

shall I say? She presented me with the most agreeable prospects; painted the delights of variety in colours so seducing, that in spite of my secret repugnance, she overcame my scruples; and to crown her generosity, she offered me her services in so cordial a manner, that I could not possibly withstand her importunity.

We were upon the point of taking leave of the eloquent Mrs. K----y, when a tall, thin, elderly man called upon her. After receiving him very graciously, she introduced him to
me

me as one of her best friends, and whom she assured me was worthy of that consideration she begged I would have for him. The old gentleman, proud of this flattering recommendation, approached me with all the familiarity of an old acquaintance, and persuaded me to go into another room. I was so inconsiderate, that I never thought of making the least resistance.

Such a beginning was not very pleasing to me. I already wished to disengage myself from this pretty tête-à-tête; but it was first necessary to merit the reward of
my

my compliance, which was not so easily effected. This skeleton that I had to revive, was very far gone indeed. I made the most incredible efforts to dissipate his drowfiness. What useless trouble! Impotence seemed to possess his soul, and I despaired of success. My condescension made me blush: I, who had used to forward lovers, to be now obliged to anticipate latent desires! In vain I persevered, encouraged by the glory of performing wonders; I was filled with indignation at the part I acted. How humiliating to a woman who thinks herself handsome, to meet with such incorrigible

rigible insensibility! Twenty times disheartened at the ill success of my kindness, I was ready to relinquish my undertaking. At length, quite fatigued with two hours speculation on impalpable affairs, I drew from the poor ghost an expiring sigh, a faint homage which his gratitude paid to my generosity. After having very liberally rewarded Mrs. K——y, to whom he gave a most favourable account of the excellence and sweetness of my disposition, he went away.

A blustering, fiery officer of the Guards succeeded this paraletic old fellow. Here was a very op-

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posite scene. His ardent passion did not leave me a moment's peace. I was pleased with his first address. His prolonged and reiterated transports were so much to my liking, that I entirely abandoned myself to them. He was delighted with my good humour. We amused ourselves a long while with such enjoyment as made me ample amends for the trouble I had experienced in the preceding adventure. When he withdrew, other candidates came to fill the vacant post, and idleness was banished from this temple of pleasure.

The number of Mrs. K——y's acquaintance was prodigious: people of all ranks and of all complexions; princes,

princes, peers, partisans, clerks in office, officers, magistrates, lawyers, merchants, clergymen, citizens, strangers, all were let in. Her house was the general *rendez-vous* of the four quarters of the globe, where every traveller brought his offering to the Cyprian Queen. Interest opened the door, and Sensuality did the honours of the house.

It was in one of these interviews that I got acquainted with Tom F——y, (now Lord F——y) who did not overlook my charms, though placed in so improper a sphere. He made me some very advantageous offers; and promised

to promote my future welfare, provided I would restrict myself to the happiness of pleasing him. I cheerfully consented. The first quarter's allowance being paid in advance, prepossessed me in favour of a man who acted so liberally. As I lived too near Mrs. K——y, to assure him a cessation of the trade that had been the basis of my friendship with her, he thought proper to remove me; and I went to live under his protection in New Cavendish-street. I was hardly settled there, before I perceived that I had made a new conquest. Billy H——r, well known to all the pretty women in town,

town, by his happy talent of seducing their virtue by his visionary insinuations, saw me, and fell in love with me. I suffered myself to be cajoled by the deceitful hopes with which he fed me; but all these splendid projects ended in some sumptuous entertainment, for the expence of which he obtained credit. Fortunately for me, I found out that he thought to dazzle me with brilliant prospects, before I had contracted any serious engagement with him. This discovery made me suppress the effects of a forwardness, which might have prejudiced me in Mr. F——y's good opinion. His ge-

nerous behaviour to me deserved some discretion on my part. The solidity of his funds appeared to me preferable to the superficial ones of Billy H——r. I had arranged matters so prudently, that the proprietor of my charms did not perceive the little extravagancies into which I had led him. I had also the good luck to conceal from him my acquaintance with a new friend, to whose house I went to pass away my idle hours. Besides being kept in breath by this wholesome exercise, I reaped a double benefit from it, by the addition to my pin-money.

“ The pitcher does not go often
to

“ to the water, but it comes home
“ broken at last.” This proverbial truth I learned from fatal experience. Tom F——y, though much attached to me, nevertheless sometimes made use of the privileges to which his liberality intitled him; he went from home now and then, to rouse his languid passions. My evil destiny led him to Mrs. W——n’s, who had the management of my private intrigues. He introduced himself in stile. I was proposed to him; my charms were so highly extolled that he begged to see me. A mercury in waiting is immediately dispatched to me; I follow him back instantly.

I enter. Heavens, how great was my surprise ! I at first thought it was a dream ; but the bitter reproaches with which Mr. F——y loaded me, soon convinced me of my error. As I saw that the misfortune was irreparable, I was determined at least to yield with dignity. I did not hesitate a moment ; but pretending to have come there merely for the purpose of detecting his inconstancy, I said every thing to him that a real fit of jealousy could have dictated ; and, after having forbid him for ever the honour of re-appearing in my presence, I went out, casting a fierce disdainful

ful look at him. "You got wonderfully well out of the scrape," said Mrs. W——n, "into which my imprudent zeal had hurried you. I have done the mischief: I will try to make you amends. Come, don't be disheartened, 'tis but a trifling loss. If I know your disposition, you are ready to despise such accidents."

When I had reached home, I did not stand reflecting on what had passed. Reflections wear the mind, especially when they are employed on vexatious subjects. The virtuous Mrs. W——n had given me encouragement, and I felt a resolution superior to misfortunes.

tunes. I continued to pay her frequent visits. During that time I had leisure to examine the nature of the passions. The reader must permit me to drop the curtain over a picture capable of averting the looks of the most indelicate persons. Although my situation does not compel me to obey certain laws of decorum and modesty, which the caprice of mankind has been pleased to impose on us, yet there are certain offensive nudities that ought not to be exposed; and love has never been so little veiled as in those temples where sensuality makes frequent sacrifices. Unruly ardour,

dour, ridiculous anger, desires extinguished as soon as formed, perpetual inconstancy, tumultuous passions, unaccountable wanderings, deliriums where the soul is lost in quest of sensations which escape it ; those are the secret motions that incessantly diversify the odious and revolting objects of this shifting scene.

Though deeply versed in the mysteries of love, I nevertheless found its pleasures troublesome and insipid. I grew disgusted with my situation, and was at a loss how to retire from it, when chance supplied me with the means.

We

We had formed a party to see the exhibition; the day was fixed: my hair-dresser spent the greatest part of the morning in putting my hair in order. He exhausted his science. I think I have said that I have a fine head of hair. On viewing myself in the glass, I was most agreeably surprised with the wonderful effects of art. I beheld myself with infinite pleasure. While my maid was busy in arranging my toilet, she threw some papers out of the window, that had been cut for my hair, which accidentally fell on the bishop of W——r, who was passing by at that moment. By
one

one of those miracles produced by sympathy, the charm made him stop: secret instinct gave him a *presentiment* of some sweet adventure, and he looked up to conjecture from whence the enchantment proceeded. He expected to see at the window one of those fascinating beauties, who throw their nets from a first floor, to catch those hearts which are imprudent enough to fall into the ambuscade. Surprised at making no new discovery, this redoubled his curiosity; my windows being still open made him suspect it to be the place that concealed those charms to which his

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heart

heart was already devoted. He accordingly knocked at the door, and came directly up stairs, guided by attraction.

He entered my room with that easy air and manly assurance, which merit inspires when supported by affluence; his address was plain and ingenuous. "You delight me my queen," said he; "if I have not a very different effect on you, you will not complain of the inutility of my sighs. Are you alone?" My mother coming in at that instant, joined in the conversation, and saved me the trouble of answering him with that frankness he seemed willing to exact. The
bargain

bargain being made, new arrangements took place, and I removed to a house in Curzon street, May-Fair, where I was made proprietor of all the furniture.

I was this time desirous of seeing, whether I could, by a more prudent conduct, secure to myself the attachment of the bishop of W——r. But what resource is there against the fickleness of men? It was to little purpose that I constrained myself by acting with decorum; the inconstant prelate violated his oaths, and abandoned me at the end of three months, without assigning any other cause than the weakness of an exhausted heart.

I had behaved so handsomely towards him, and had carried on some little pilgrimages with so much discretion, that he never had the least knowledge of them. I had therefore nothing to reproach myself with, he alone was in fault. Innocence is not much affected by unmerited misfortunes: I was easily consoled, and left myself entirely at the disposal of fortune.

I was now again reduced to put in practice the knight errantry of intrigue, and was on the point of resuming my early habitudes, when I perceived that the bishop of W——r, in quitting me, had left me a treasure which till then had remained

mained unnoticed: he had placed about my person a kind of old duenna, to watch narrowly on my conduct. This woman, won by my civilities, was attached to me. She put me out of conceit with the part I was going to act. After the desertion of my episcopal lover, she pointed out to me the disadvantage of only owing my conquests to the mediation of a third person, and advised me to manage that business myself. I took the hint, and resolved to show myself at public places, where I had not yet made my appearance. I began, by going to the opera. There I displayed my charms, (in a box

I had purposely hired) heightened by all the allurements which the elegant simplicity of my dress could possibly excite.

As soon as I was seated the spying glasses of all the pretty fellows were pointed at me. They are common in this place, where the gratification of the senses is the only divinity that is revered. If the desire of pleasing, and that satisfaction which results from giving birth to desires, be called coquetry, I will confess myself guilty of it. I was not insensible to the delight of seeing myself the object of anxious curiosity. I perceived some rivals, whose jealous eyes pretended to examine

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amine me with disdain; but the attention of the public made me amends for the impertinence of their looks: besides, the insulting air with which they endeavoured to compose their countenance, was a new encomium for me, and taught me my worth.

I was too attentive to the different commotions I raised, to think of the performance. Several men of fashion came into my box, to pay their respects to me, and make me overtures. One may at least be a little vain, without being unreasonable. I had engrossed almost all the suffrages of the company, without hav-

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ing solicited them. I fancied myself in a seraglio of men destined to my pleasures, where I could reign like a sultan, and throw the handkerchief to him who should have the good fortune to awaken my sensibility.

I was so well pleased with this experiment, that I went there constantly. All the smart frequenters of the opera sighed for me. I made a few of them happy, and had the glory of seeing at my feet some illustrious personages, who were not ashamed to forget their consequence in my presence. I then understood better than ever, that there is nothing

thing in the world superior to a pretty woman, and that the empire of beauty has no limits.

Yet in spite of all the splendour of my acquaintance, I did not advance very rapidly towards the temple of Fortune. Although the *great* will do every thing for enjoyment, their liberality cannot be depended on, especially when, like me, you form no permanent connexion with them. Sometimes on coming home, I made some animadversions on the vanity of the age, which gave me the head-ach.

I was quite overcome with the fatigue of my daily excursions,
and

and wanted rest. I wished to make a kind of retreat. Sir Richard S——ns presented himself, to fill a vacant part of my solitude. I accepted his offers, and he undertook to render me constant. I exerted myself to second his good intentions. Every thing went on well at first. Sir Richard would have blushed to find fault with my expences; he lavished his generosity like a favourite of fortune, who in the first warmth of gratitude, is willing to show himself worthy of his destiny. I could not have failed being happy with him, if some unexpected bickerings had not embroiled my
nearest

nearest relations, and deranged the peaceable situation we enjoyed. My father-in-law got into some quarrels, was beat, and set the whole neighbourhood in an uproar. A magistrate of the parish, informed of this domestic strife, recommended us to change our habitation, in order to avoid scandal. His advice was urgent. As we saw the necessity of following it, we submitted, and went to reside in Lower-Grosvenor street.

It was there I got acquainted with Lord V——e. This Adonis, near seventy years old, whose soul has still some remembrance
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of past voluptuousness, deserved, by his long services, to have been invalided by Venus. Reduced to be contented with the delusion of a contemplative passion, his heart incessantly seeks to revive his extinct desires. He vainly fancies himself still visited by some sparks of sensuality; but these faint atoms are suddenly extinguished by the coldness of an exhausted imagination. Yet, notwithstanding the insurmountable obstacles that appear to have for ever severed him from enjoyment, he cannot forsake his fond habits. An old warrior in the field of love, he wishes to die in the bed of honour.

nour. I have often seen him in the delirium of a mute rage, trying to struggle with his misfortunes, and flattering himself with being able to find again in the arms of love, those tender instants, of which his memory still retains so delightful and so forlorn an image.

The part of a comforter is extremely difficult to sustain. It is a sad thing to have nothing but objects of pity in constant view. The debilitated peer, by dint of exciting my compassion, became my aversion. I saw that there was no help for his misfortune, and that I was exercising the ge-

nerosity of my soul to no purpose whatever. The last resource of physicians, is to send the patients whom they give over, either to Bath or Bristol. Some such expedient should be devised for those persons whose hearts are afflicted with incurable languishment.

I advised my superannuated lover to wait till time should have cured his infirmity, and not to throw away any longer in my company, those useless moments which he might employ in a manner more suitable to his present situation. Although I represented the matter to him very mildly, he

he was unreasonable enough to be angry. He upbraided me with his kindness, and absolutely insisted on my returning him some of the presents with which his magnificence had honoured me. Those that he valued most, consisted of a watch, and a gown belonging to his lady. This stile appeared to me quite new. I was by no means accustomed to make restitutions. I told his lordship that my conscience did not permit me to dispossess myself of his gifts, and that they were too dear to my heart to think of parting with them. In spite of my remonstrances, he still persisted in

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his demands. We at length came to this compromise, that I should keep the gown, and give him back the watch, which was to be appraised, that he might pay me the value of it. Our differences being thus terminated, we separated.

Sir Peter B——ll stepped into Lord V——e's place, whose coadjutor he had been for some time. I attempted in vain to fix his inconstancy; but it was impossible for me ever to convert him into a real lover. Always uneasy, flighty, only wishing to have a little taste of pleasure, the sole idea of a serious connection startled him. I obtained

obtained nothing by preaching to him, for he did not feel the morality of my doctrine. Satisfied with having made me sensible of the first impressions of a transitory sentiment, he had chalked out for himself a system of enjoyment, adapted, as he said, to the constitution of his heart, which was incompatible with constant sensibility. Discouraged by his perpetual infidelities, I lost all hopes of reforming so frivolous a passion, and looked out for some more substantial successor.

The apartments we occupied faced a large house, inhabited by the Lord Chamberlain, who was

also a Knight of the Garter. I had remarked, that I attracted the attention of one of his sons, who seemed to watch for an opportunity of bowing to me. His intention being so laudable, it would have been the height of cruelty to have let him languish. I condescended to take notice of his polite advances; a smile told him that I guess'd his design, and was not offended with him. He immediately came to acknowledge my kindness, and had reason to be satisfied with the reception I gave him. He paid me the most flattering compliments upon my person. His encomiums were too interesting

interesting to my vanity, for me not to be affected by them. He said so many civil things to me as disposed me entirely in his favour. Besides, Ned C——y is amiable; his sensible countenance speaks for him; his features, without being regular, are set off with that *je ne sais quoi*, so calculated for touching the heart; he is gay, lively, obliging, and his sparkling eyes express the disposition of a soul formed for enjoyment. I felt myself naturally inclined to wish him well, and his assiduities would easily have drawn the secret from my heart; but, whether from diffidence, or the fear of seeing his flame unrewarded,

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on account of his father's economy, he was contented with asking leave to give me a supper at my own lodgings, to which he was to invite three of his friends. I acquiesced, and he did not fail bringing the guests that very evening. Having previously sent in a hamper of the choicest wines, two courses and a desert were elegantly served from a neighbouring tavern. Joy and festivity presided at the entertainment. There was nothing but witty sallies, strokes of pleasantry, and *bon mots*. I was in the best humour possible. Figure to yourself four foppish Oxonians, but
such

such only as have the gaiety and graces of the University without its pedantry and impertinence emulously striving to merit my approbation by their little attentions, contending for the honour of raising my passions, endeavouring to soften me by the attraction of pleasure, which they held out to me under all the various shapes that a voluptuous imagination, seconded by the desire of pleasing, could possibly suggest.

I was enchanted; the fame of-
ficiousness, the same offers from
all quarters, these four charming
rivals fixed me alternately. My
senses were fascinated; my heart
incessantly

incessantly flying from pleasure to pleasure, was at a loss on what object to settle its wandering desires. M——ce B——tt at first appeared to decide my suspense ; when the elder B——e lamented my decision in so tender a strain, that I was overwhelmed with uncertainty. George A——gh, who has inherited nothing from his father but the ingenuity of his understanding, perplexed me exceedingly by his interference ; and young Ned C——y, to increase the uproar, claimed his privileges, gently upbraided me with injustice, and called love to witness the sincerity of his transports. What was I
to

to do in so ticklish a conjuncture? The idea of taking them all four, was the first that struck me, but the thing was impracticable: it was necessary to chuse. To whom then was I to give the preference? I was at a stand. After surveying them all round, I came back again to C——y: he caught me in his arms; my undecided heart hesitated no longer. Love pronounced him to be the happy man, and my enraptured soul partook his pleasure and his triumph.

Supper being over, the victorious Edward remained master of the field of battle; he did not
know

know how to express the joy he conceived at a preference so dear to his heart; his excessive gratitude taught me how deeply he was penetrated. I felt the violence of my inclination for him increase every instant. Never had love made me experience such exquisite pleasure. My heart for the first time was yielded up without the least reserve. I could not have lived without C——y. My only delight was the thoughts of possessing him. To love him and be beloved by him, appeared to me the only happiness of which my soul could be sensible. I saw with pleasure that I had made the same impression

pression on him. Attached to each other by the ties of the most tender passion, what was wanting to render us completely happy, but the continuation of our felicity?

I fell dangerously ill; my lover scarcely ever left my bed-side. Words cannot convey any idea of the impulses of love and gratitude which glowed within my breast; even in the arms of death, I could think but of him alone; his grief affected me more than the danger that threatened me. Love took pity on us, and restored me to life. C——y dried up his tears; transports of joy

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succeeded those of despair, when I read my recovery in his eyes. Convinced of the tender concern he took in it, I fancied myself out of danger as soon as I saw that his fears diminished. Was it possible for me, without being the worst of women, not to adore a lover so worthy of all my affection?

It may be imagined that after C——y had inspired me with these sentiments, I had an utter aversion to the unsettled life I had hitherto led. I forsook it entirely. My mother, who regarded nothing but her interest, seeing her projects partly disconcerted

certed by this new line of conduct, did not approve of my way of thinking. She was willing to remonstrate with me, but I turned a deaf ear to her. It now was the province of love alone to dispose of me.

Notwithstanding my repugnance, my mother believed that she had still sufficient influence over me, to flatter herself that I would not resist her openly. Relying on her authority, she appointed Lord M——rd. Ned C——y was just gone out when his Lordship was announced. My mother conducted him into my apartment. I received him very

L 2 coldly ;

coldly ; he mistook this for dissimulation, and made some attempts, in which he was disappointed. His desires consequently became more ardent, and my resistance more obstinate. In vain my mother tried to seduce me by her caresses, or intimidate me by her threats. I was inexorable. Lord M——rd went away, and left me at the mercy of my mother's clamorous reproaches. I did nothing but fret the remainder of the day. When C——y came home in the evening, he found me bathed in tears. He earnestly begged me to let him know the cause of them. I loved him

him too well to conceal any thing from him. His passion was extremely hurt at such an outrage; he proposed carrying me off. I consented without hesitation, as it was the only way of securing me against any fresh attempts. The next morning being fixed on for our elopement, I went out about ten o'clock; my lover waited for me at the corner of the street; I there got into his carriage, and we drove away to a boarding school near Hammermith. On the road he incessantly loaded me with the most tender caresses. This proof I gave him of my love and affection, did not permit him

to doubt any longer the sincerity of my sentiments.

On our arrival at Mrs. De la T——e's academy, C——y took leave of me. In order to avoid suspicion, he had assumed a fictitious name with her, and I passed for his sister. The young ladies showed me every demonstration of kindness. I admired the apparent tranquillity of these dear girls; yet it never once came into my head to imitate them. My lover came to see me almost every day; and my passion for him, though labouring under the ceremonious constraint of a supposed relationship,

ship, only sunk deeper into my heart.

However, my mother enraged at my escape, used the utmost diligence to discover the place of my retreat. She suspected that C——y was privy to my flight, although he pretended to be sensibly grieved at my absence, and continued paying her the allowance he made me ; so that, though separated from her, she still enjoyed all the privileges annexed to my presence. But as these perquisites did not correspond with the greatness of her designs, she was not the less bent on finding me out.

Upon

Upon the strength of my charms, my mother had built some hazardous projects as extensive as her ambition. A recent adventure had still more increased her natural inclination for the favours of fortune. Lord P——y was just separated from his lady, in spite of the efforts of prodigality he made to detain her. His heart despairing at so cruel a loss, appeared to be inconsolable. The elegant and judicious use he makes of his riches, made all the fashionable world take a concern in his grief. The managers of both play-houses emulously contended for the honour of re-establishing the
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the tranquillity of his soul. The managers of the opera, also touched by his misfortune, frequently visited him by deputy; and the most beautiful *figurantes* were carefully selected for these embassies. The priestesses of Venus, and their flocks of all ranks, deserted the Cytherean temples, to go and pay him their compliments of condolence. His house was never empty. Nothing but beauties of all degrees were to be seen in the streets leading to it; some whose charms were scarce blown and not yet arrived to maturity; some just initiated; others formed, modest, gentle, tender, proud,

proud, and impudent; some trained up privately; others audacious, and known by some signal adventures. Mothers carried their daughters there; nieces got themselves introduced by their aunts. What enchantments were not employed to dissipate the melancholy of the unfortunate Midas! Labour in vain, the blow was too severe; his soul inaccessible to consolation, was consumed with the most violent grief. He groaned incessantly, and his afflicted imagination at every moment presented him the cherished image of his faithless restal. Rent with woe, he vainly sought that repose,

pose, which was never within his reach. His immense fortune, that source of gold, formed and augmented by a fortunate marriage of his father, the Duke of N———d, who preserved till death a fondness for the niceties of calculation, had overflowed. There, every body dipped at pleasure; all drank, all quenched their thirst; he alone in prey to a burning fever, could not gratify the passion that tormented him.

Public report had informed my mother of this great event. She was more deeply concerned than ever at being separated from me, in a conjuncture so favourable

ble to the improvement of our fortune. She had caused my name to be inserted in the list of candidates. As we naturally believe what we ardently wish, she did not doubt but my person would gain me the most honourable distinctions, and perhaps make me obtain the prize. But where was I to be found? After the most diligent enquiries she had not yet been able to discover the place of my retreat. At last, an honest bailiff, her friend and protector, in whose bosom she had deposited all her sorrows and hopes, promised to use the utmost exertions to find me out.

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He posted some people to watch and follow C——y. By this means they traced out my sanctuary. This discovery encouraged my mother; she consulted her worthy agent, who again promised her his assistance to insure the success of her project. He sent her to Lord P——y's *valet-de-chambre*, and advised her to submit my charms to his patronage.

The confidant of a man of gallantry is a more considerable person than is imagined, especially of such a *favourite of the fair* as Lord P——y; indeed it is like being a minister on a small scale. He received my mother with the seri-

ous air of a man taken up with the most important affairs, and did not look chearfully till she announced herself as the mother of a pretty girl. This title drew his attention: the attractions of my person were highly commended: my mother spoke feelingly. It was requisite to describe my face minutely. This description moved her auditor. He was affected by fine things; he sighed: it was absolutely necessary to win his friendship; that was a decided stroke. My mother had long ago given up the pleasures of the age; nevertheless she found herself under the necessity of making an effort

fort upon the inactivity of her constitution. This specimen of voluptuousness delighted the *valet-de-chambre*; as a connoisseur he concluded, that the offspring of such a stock ought to be something exquisite, and worthy of being consecrated to the pleasures of his master. He therefore promised to interest himself in my behalf, and kept his word.

The account he gave to Lord P——y was agreeably received, and suspended his grief for some moments. “Very well,” said his lordship, “see her for me, and if her beauty be not exaggerated, perhaps she may make me forget

M 2 the

ungrateful Countess." Upon this, the faithful emissary hastens to the boarding-school, and inquires for me. I no sooner appeared than he informed me very concisely of his master's intentions, and flattered me with the most brilliant destiny. I answered these magnificent proposals with great indifference, and begged him not to importune me any more, telling him, that I was resolved to refuse what Lord P——y did me the honour of bidding for. I then left him abruptly.

My first business was to let C——y know of this new adventure: he immediately came to conduct

duct me to another place. I gladly consented. I felt infinite pleasure in assuring him of the possession of my heart, and secretly enjoyed the sweet satisfaction of proving to him by this recent sacrifice, that I only loved him for his own sake.

On my mother's coming to take me away from Mrs. De la T——e's, she was exceedingly disappointed to find that I had left it the day before. Nothing could equal her fury at seeing her measures so unexpectedly defeated. She went to look for C——y, and abused him in the most outrageous manner. After

M 3 having

having vented her anger, they forced her to withdraw ; she did not give up the matter, but petitioned the fitting magistrates, accused C—y of a rape, and made so much bustle, that though he might easily have silenced her, by bringing witnesses to prove that she had repeatedly sold what he was charged with having ravished, he was obliged from his situation, and to put a stop to her unbecoming clamour, to surrender me into her hands.

My lamentations were vain :
I was obliged to submit to my
fate, and consent against my will
to be the victim of my mother's
avarice

avarice and ambition. It may be supposed that I entertained no very favourable idea of Lord P——y; but I confess that my imagination did not come up to the original. I hated him without knowing him; after seeing him I abhorred him. What an abominable figure! his eyes were gloomy and savage; he had a wild stare, a pale and livid complexion, a true physiognomy of a reprobate. Ugliness may be overlooked, but such faces as his are not to be tolerated. Oh! the nasty creature!

With this wretch was I compelled to pass the saddest and most disagreeable

disagreeable of nights : he must have perceived my aversion for him. Day at length appeared, and put an end to my torture. My mother, who had slept in the house, and officiated the night before as bride-maid to see us bedded, came in as I was getting up. I hurried into the next room to avoid an insupportable scene. When she had settled her accounts with his Lordship, she took leave. He ordered her at parting, to remove me to the house of the bailiff who had been the first negociator, and there to wait his orders. Three weeks elapsed without our hearing from him. My mother

ther daily expected he would send us some rich present, and was quite astonished; at the expiration of that time, on being informed that lady V——rs was proclaimed the adored idol of Lord P——y's affections, and that she was perfectly at liberty to provide me with another gallant. This sad news confounded her. The flattering ideas she had indulged, had turned her brain. She had incroached upon a fortune which she considered as certain. Creditors will not hear reason. Hers had no mercy; furniture, plate, jewels, every thing was swallowed up; and we were once more under

der the necessity of putting up with ready furnished lodgings. The loss of my dear Ned C——y was what grieved me most, but there was no help for it ; he was not willing to expose himself a second time. The disorder of our circumstances induced my mother to leave me for a while : she set off for Castle Ford ; I was not much afflicted at her departure. I was at liberty, and could follow my inclinations without constraint. I began to be tired of the dependency in which I had hitherto lived, and at length found it was time to relinquish guardian-

guardianship, and act for myself.

I lodged in Jermyn-street. The Honourable Mr. H——rt, who has a seraglio in different quarters of the metropolis, saw and loved me. He came in person to assure me of the possession of his heart. His antique little figure did not suit me at all; but the rank of favourite Sultana, which he offered me, made me open my eyes; my vanity was flattered by it; I accepted without hesitation such splendid conditions, and which also gave me a superiority over all my rivals. Seeing me so favourably disposed, he bought
me

me some fashionable dresses, and carried me to Great Marlborough-street, where lived two of his confidential procuresses, to whom he had committed the direction of his private amusements. I only remained there two days. He had taken care, during this short interval, to furnish a handsome house for me in Clarges-street; a situation worthy of my late elevation. I went to take possession of this new residence. H——it was there to receive me. He accosted me with all the rhetorick of his old intrigues, and spoke of his love, as a passion whose sole object was the pleasure of making

making me happy. He assured me that his assiduity should convince me of it, and that his great regard for me had prompted him to take the wisest precautions for preserving my chaste virtue, and protecting my innocent charms from profane pillage. "Lovely Louisa," added he, "true love is always accompanied by jealousy; it is the proof of a refined soul. Mine cannot be reproached on that head; I adore you with all possible delicacy. Oh! that we were in Asia! I should there enjoy the satisfaction of seeing you surrounded by some sacred guardians of female virtue: you would

be happy, and my security would be perfect. Sages of the East, how prudent are your customs ! And why must we, by our negligence, be deprived of so sure, and so convenient a method of making ourselves easy ?” I wished to dissipate his fears, and make him understand that I was a woman of sentiment, and capable of the most scrupulous fidelity. “ I have not the smallest doubt of it,” replied he ; “ what I say is only by way of conversation. But still my dear, you must agree with me, that a eunuch is a very useful attendant on women less virtuous than yourself. I would even
make

make a bet that you would be glad to have some about you. I am safe in your virtue and prudence; but sometimes moments occur, when the observance of this precept is obnoxious to us; then the fear of doing amiss obliges us to be upon our guard. Is it not far more agreeable to have nothing to apprehend, and to be able to brave a danger which we know to be involuntary? I will always maintain it. The custom of having eunuchs is a good one, and perhaps it will come in vogue here some day. In the mean time, my adorable darling, thank me for the trou-

ble I have taken, to make up for it. After this you cannot doubt the sincerity of my sentiments. Amongst some curiosities I have had sent me from Italy, is a machine of a most wonderful invention. The women are much indebted to the contriver of it. It is an infallible secret against alarms, and tranquilizes the passions. Should you not like to see so curious a toy, my Queen?" In saying this, he took the rarity out of his pocket, and presented it to me. I could not avoid laughing at the sight of it. "You laugh," said he; "that's comical enough. But, my dear girl, pray

pray be a little civil; let us see whether it will fit you well."

My laughing fit still continued. I could not conceive that H——rt spoke seriously, till at last I saw that he was in downright earnest. As my affections were not then engaged, I cared very little for my lover's jealousy depriving me of the use of a thing which was unserviceable to me. I acquiesced in the most handsome manner. He was quite delighted to find me flatter his vanity with so much frankness; he said, and did a thousand extravagant things. "Ah! my sweet love," exclaimed he, "I have you

N 3 fast,

fast; you shall be chained, you little rogue. What a pity, that such fascinating charms should be exposed to the violation of some villain who would not be sensible of their worth!" "What, you lock them up," cried I! "Yes," replied he, "it is for your good." However he kissed his prisoner with incredible raptures. "Well," continued he, "I think you a thousand times handsomer, since you may be so with impunity. One more kiss—I cannot contain the excess of my extasy. I shall take away the key; I believe I need not desire you to take care of the lock."

When

When I found myself alone, I began to examine carefully the texture of the bonds that held my charms in captivity. On considering the due proportion of the instrument, some slight scruples arose in my conscience. I had no desire of going astray, but women are fond of having it in their power to do so. Prudence is advantageous enough when it is the mere result of inclination. I suppressed these reflections as improper, and took some turns in my drawing-room, to accustom myself to wear this ridiculous girdle. It was a little troublesome

some

some to me at first, but habit makes every thing familiar.

I was pretty quiet for a month, and lived as happy as it is possible to be, when the heart is disengaged. H——rt spared nothing to procure me all the appendages of pleasure. I nevertheless began to grow tired of this regular life, when Lord L——n came and roused me from my lethargy.

Lord L——n enjoyed the advantages of an agreeable person, united with all the graces of youth; voluptuous, dissipated, and beggaring himself in pursuit of pleasure, for which his prodigality was

was excessive. I was exceedingly prepossessed in his favour at first sight. He made me a declaration of his passion, and I would gladly have alleviated his sufferings, but a cruel obstacle prevented me.

I then perceived the error I had committed in consenting to the imprisonment of my desires. I regretted my liberty ; love had opened my eyes, and made me consider the disagreeableness of my situation. I endeavoured in vain to mitigate the misery of it, but my heart was inconsolable. One day that I lay abed later than ordinary, Lord L——n came suddenly

suddenly into my room. I loved him too well to be incensed at his taking this liberty. He sat down by my bed side; but soon finding himself too far from me, he left his place to sit upon the bed. He warmly intreated me to take pity on him. Moved by his presence, I was but too much inclined to give him some proof of my sensibility. My eyes were firmly fixed on his, and I was incapable of making him any reply. The tenderness of my looks informed him of his triumph. "My adorable Louisa," said he, "may I believe that you are not insensible, and that you will allow me to——" "Stop," cried I—

I—"Stop!—What are you about? Yes, I do love you.—Leave off then. No, I cannot make you happy."
"And who can oppose my happiness," answered he, "if you love me?" "Alas!" replied I, "a cruel obstacle———"At these words the tears trickled down my cheeks. "You cry," said he, "my dear life! Alas! have I had the misfortune to offend you? Speak, am I hateful to you?" "Ah!" rejoined I, "I should be less afflicted, if I did not love you. Why must I——." My tears increased so fast that I could say no more. I did nothing but sob and sigh. His lordship, surprised at this unexpected calamity, was at a loss to account for
my

my being in such an alarming condition.

He tried to console me by his caresses. I thrust him away. My resistance inflamed his desires. "Good heavens!" said I, "what torment! Be quiet then, or you will drive me mad. Oh! for pity's sake, my dear L——n, I will not suffer———No, cruel wretch."——Ah!—He still went on in spite of my shrieks. The odious mystery was now going to be explained. Love seconded his temerity, and hastened my defeat. My strength failed me, and my trembling hands could no longer hold the remains of a sheet

sheet which till then had served me as a skreen. "You leave me no alternative, you wicked fellow," cried I, in a transport of grief and love. "Well, abandon yourself to the frenzy that possesses you, and know the whole extent of my misfortune."

I covered my face to conceal my shame from the eyes of my lover. I do not know what effect this first prospect had on him; he did not speak for some time. "Is this a dream," said he, in breaking silence! "What, a lock! And what barbarian has dared to load with ignominious chains, the only objects worthy

of being adored?" His transports interrupted his exclamations. He eagerly surveyed the charms displayed to his view. I was set on fire by his burning caresses. He gave way to the raptures of the most violent love. Often ready to expire at the gates of pleasure, he attempted to overcome the barrier that stood between us. Useless efforts! The temple of voluptuousness was inaccessible to his homage. At length, yielding to despair, and the impetuosity of his desires, he blindly offered his sacrifice against one of the outside pillars of the edifice. This made him more tractable;

tractable; he harkened to reason. It was necessary to postpone till the next morning, the surrender of a place which could not be carried by storm.

A good honest locksmith took our part, and made us a key, with which we released Love from his confinement. Pleasure took wing and amply made up for the time we had lost. I concerted my plans so well, that Mr. H——rt could not detect our intimacy; however, the exertion of my diligence gave me infinite trouble. Although he ought not to have suspected my fidelity after the ingenious precaution he had

made use of, his jealousy kept him in continual uneasiness. I was constantly obliged to be upon my guard; such misplaced diffidence tired me out. I felt myself nearly disposed to fall out with him. A shabby trick that he played me completed his disgrace, and plainly discovered my discontent.

He had sent me some very handsome diamonds to sport at a masquerade. The lustre of the jewels struck my fancy. I considered them as a present. This flattering idea was soon banished; he sent to demand them from me the next morning, because, said he,

he, these trinkets are the property of my wife. A fine reason indeed! However, I was forced to be satisfied with it, and send them back. I scarce need say that I was exasperated at such a mean proceeding. Lord L——n coming in unexpectedly, inquired the cause of my ill humour, and advised me to cut with a man who acted so unhandsomely. I desired his Lordship to wait till he returned. He came in soon after, and, amazed at seeing a man tête-a-tête with me, asked to speak a word to me in private. “All explanations are unnecessary,

Sir," said I: "I beg you will cease to honour me with your visits.

"Apropos, Sir, have I not sent you back all your trinkets? I have one still remaining, which I am going to deliver into your own hands." At the same time, I took the key that Lord L——n had given me, and undid in his presence the mysterious girdle, which I restored to him with such fits of laughter, as put him quite out of countenance, and he withdrew without speaking a word.

Lord L——n immediately made me shift my quarters. I went to an elegant house in Gerrard-street, Soho. The life I led with
his

his Lordship was very different from that I quitted. Every day some new diversion, frequent suppers, a great deal of company; parties to the country, public places, and gaming; there was not an instant unoccupied. What an agreeable way of living! I should have been happy if my lover's income had been adequate to the prodigious propensity we both indulged for pleasure. But it often happened that we were puzzled for money when he had a run of ill luck. The want of regular supplies obliged us to have recourse to usurers. Those fellows are capricious. Sometimes they

they were obdurate to a degree. Other ways and means were devised. The superfluity of my furniture and equipages made up the deficiency. One of L——n's friends, a very obliging young man, and for whom I shall ever preserve the greatest regard, was sometimes pleased to take upon himself the trouble of being our steward; and had it not been for him, the fasting couple would have been often restricted to a diet very incapable of sustaining nature.

I visibly fell away, and found myself on the point of being as awkwardly situated as I was on
my

my arrival in London ; when my mother, who had only retired in order to project more leisurely some schemes of support, wrote to me from the country, to acquaint me with the departure of Sir James L——r, to whom she had given my address. This supply came very seasonably. The Baronet called to see me. I received him like a guardian angel. Lord L——n was turned out of favour. The unfortunate are always in the wrong. Sir James offered all at once to share with me his immense wealth. Though he was not in the prime of youth, yet he was able to create desires.

fires. I was prepossessed with his generous behaviour. He loves gold, but it appeared to me that he loved me still more. As he is a little capricious, I had sometimes to endure his extravagant whims. He is also mistrustful; this is a fault which I have not been able to overlook in the men. I know not whether this imperfection be with him a constitutional or an habitual vice. Perhaps too it might have been the effect of the injurious reports that were circulated to my prejudice. Let it be as it may, I stuck close to him: experience had taught me not to break any more
engage-

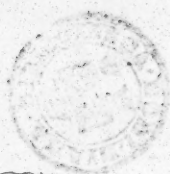
engagements on slight grounds.

As I was almost always tolerably constant to him, and, as he sincerely loved me, I found out the secret of pacifying him, when any thing seemed to alarm him. The privilege he gave me of making use of his fortune, put it in my power to figure away amongst some of the first rate divinities at Ranelagh. These enchanting beauties, proof against time, preserve, in spite of their labours, a perpetual bloom. I concluded from the model in question, that my charms were bewitched, and had the vanity to imitate them. A nobleman of great rank and
fashion,

fashion, whose time is divided between the court, the turf, and the opera, fighed for me. I was ambitious of meriting the approbation of so great a connoisseur in the art of painting. Sir James L——r took offence at my pursuing this glorious career; his jealousy was awakened, and, as I could not possibly make him reasonable, he took leave of me. I had fortunately provided against this accident; my prudence and œconomy have enabled me to support my rank, in spite of his deserting me.

As I detest idleness, the state of widowhood has disgusted me; and I have lately found a successor

cessor to Sir James L——r. A young Russian nobleman has imbibed a flame from my eyes, which all the ice of the north cannot extinguish; at least I am of that opinion. We yet enjoy the first transports of a loving couple in the honey moon. I am in my one and twentieth year, and may have to encounter various changes of situation. If hereafter any thing should happen to me that appears worthy of the attention of the public, I will take care to communicate it to them.



This summary view of those proceedings, and the observations are so obvious to what ought to be the course of proceeding on an occasion of a tumult nature, which the revolution of a year has produced, that it is fit these Reflections should close here; and if they are of any use to form their own opinions upon the subject, the Author will have nothing to regret, but the haste with which they have been written, afforded no leisure to attend to the polish of language.

Inn, Dec. 19, 1788.